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# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact: Maria Velasquez, Communications Director: (619) 235-5725** (pager & voicemail) [mvelasquez@saniego.gov](mailto:mvelasquez@saniego.gov)

### **FISH POACHERS SENTENCED AFTER GUILTY PLEAS**

**San Diego, CA:** Two commercial fishermen, caught fishing for white sea bass out of season, were sentenced yesterday after pleading guilty to misdemeanor violations. Anthony Charles Makul, 57, was ordered to pay a fine of \$3,900 and complete 20 days of Public Work Service. Makul's deckhand, Robert Gordon Trimble, Jr., 38, was fined \$1,200 and ordered to complete 10 days of Public Work Service. According to Deputy City Attorney Michael Rivo who prosecuted the case, both defendants were placed on three years probation and face losing their fishing licenses for one year if they are caught fishing out of season again.

The State Department of Fish and Game arrested the defendants on June 15, 2005, after intercepting Makul's 42-foot fishing boat at the Cortes Bank, 100 miles west of San Diego. Fish and Game wardens seized 100 white sea bass totaling 2,121 pounds. The fish were sold to a San Diego fish wholesaler as required by state law. As part of the plea agreements, the defendants forfeited the \$4,700 in proceeds from the sale of the fish, with the money going into the State Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

The commercial fishing season for white sea bass begins on June 16 and ends on March 14 each year. Commercial fishing for white sea bass is prohibited during their spawning season (March 15 through June 15). During the spawning season, white sea bass gravitate to shallow waters, making them vulnerable to gill net fishermen.

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